

If this petition is granted, this would mean that the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like the one I use, Sonic.net. As a result, they would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise their prices, and mine in the long term.

The more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for their DSL service, and they would be unable to sell DSL at all.

BellSouth's claim is that because their own affiliated ISP service (which is similar to SBC/Yahoo here in California) already controls a huge majority of the market, so squashing the rest of the competition isn't likely to impact the market much.

Please do not grant this petition.